

Message Text

SECRET

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51
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 IO-14 EURE-00

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P 231246Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9003
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION NATO
USEUCOM
USDOCOSOUTH
USCINCEUR
DIA WASHDC//DI-5//
AMCONSUL ADANA

S E C R E T NICOSIA 1659

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT CY TU GR
SUBJECT: TURKISH MILITARY OPERATION IN CYPRUS

1. BELOW HIGHLY SPECULATIVE, BUT BEST DESCRIPTION WE CAN
MAKE ON LIMITED INFO AVAILABLE.

2. WITH RENEWED OUTBREAK FIGHTING MORNING JULY 23, IT IN-
CREASINGLY CLEAR THAT TURKS DO HAVE DEFINITE MILITARY OB-
JECTIVES (IF LIMITED), WHICH THEY DETERMINED ACHIEVE
BEFORE ENTERING NEGOTIATIONS. PATTERN OF BATTLE SUGGESTS
THESE INCLUDE GREATLY EXPANDED NICOSIA ENCLAVE (PERHAPS
INCLUDING CHATOS AREA) WITH BROAD BASE ON NORTH COAST.
SUSPECT MINIMUM AREA MAY BE THAT ENCOMPASSED BY "OLD

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GREEK ROAD TO KYRENIA" AND NEW KYRENIA ROAD PASSING THROUGH

KYTHREA. THIS WOULD PERMIT EASY LINKING TO CHATOS ENCLAVE.

3. CONTROL OF AIRPORT PROBABLY NOT RPT NOT ESSENTIAL TO TURKS CONTEMPLATED GEOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT. MORE PROBABLY, TURK MILITARY INTENT ON DENYING THIS FACILITY TO GREEKS, THEREBY GREATLY INHIBITING RESUPPLY.

4. IF TURK PLANS LARGER THAN THOSE OUTLINED ABOVE, THEY MAY INCLUDE LINKING NICOSIA/CHATOS WITH LARGE ENCLAVES ON KARPAS. THIS COULD EXPLAIN REPORTED HELICOPTER LANDINGS IN GALIPORNI AND SAVAGE AIR STRIKES AROUND FAMAGUSTA. (WE DOUBT THIS EXTENSION WAS INTENDED, AT LEAST IN ORIGINAL PLANNING.)

5. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, TURKS PROBABLY WOULD BE FORCED LAND LARGE NUMBER ADDITIONAL TROOPS. MILITARILY, AREA NORTH OF FAMAGUSTA WOULD MAKE MOST SENSE. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO ANKARA OR ADANA CAN DEVELOP ON POSSIBILITIES FOR ADDITIONAL LANDINGS.

6. TURKISH OPERATION THUS FAR APPEARS REMARKABLY ILL PREPARED, DESPITE LONG LEAD TIME FOR PLANNING.
PRESUMABLY, TURKS ESTIMATED THAT NATIONAL GUARD, FOLLOWING RECENT COUP, WAS TOO FRAGMENTED AND DEMORALIZED TO OFFER MUCH RESISTANCE. IF THIS WAS THEIR PRESUMPTION, THEY WERE WRONG. TURKS LANDED TOO FEW TROOPS, WITH TOO LITTLE ARMOR TO OVERRUN PRESUMED OBJECTIVES WITH DISPATCH. DELAY, INTERCOMMUNAL CLASHES AND INCREASING CASUALTIES MAY TEMPT TURK MILITARY TO REVISE PLAN TO MORE GRANDIOSE (AND BLOODY) PROPORTIONS.

DAVIES

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